

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 EUR-12 NEA-10 SS-15

SP-02 L-03 H-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 OIC-02

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6697

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 2925

FOR: D/HA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, ICEM

SUBJECT: ICEM SPRING SESSION

REF: A. GENEVA 2759 B. STATE 83045

1. IN LUNCHEON SESSION TODAY MISOFF DISCUSSED FORTH-COMING ICEM SPRING SESSION WITH ICEM DIRECTOR THOMAS. LATTER INDICATED HE BELIEVED THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES IN COURSE OF THESE MEETINGS, AND THAT THEY WOULD FOLLOW AGENDA LINES IN RELATIVELY ROUTINE FASHION.

2. WITH REGARD TO BUDGET PRESENTATION, THOMAS STATED THAT DEFICIT FIGURE FOR ICEM ADMIN BUDGET FOR 1977 WOULD BE PRESENTED AS \$235,000 AT TIME OF MEETING, ATTRIBUTABLE ENTIRELY TO RAISED SALARIES, IN LINE WITH REVISED UN LEVELS. HE CONSIDERED THAT THIS WOULD PRESENT NO REAL PROBLEM IN BALANCING BY YEAR'S END. THE OPERATIONAL BUDGET WOULD STAND IN DEFICIT OF \$545,000 AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING AND, AGAIN, SHOULD BE BALANCED AT THE END OF THE BUDGETARY PERIOD DUE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCOME DERIVED FROM BOAT CASES, OPERATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA, AND OTHER CONTRIBUTARY FACTORS. IN REGARD TO BUDGET GENERALLY, THOMAS EXPRESSED SOME CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER PRESENT STATUS OF ICEM'S PORTUGUESE AND VENEZUELAN PROGRAMS. FORMER, HE STATED, WERE MOST DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH DUE TO RELUCTANCE OR INABILITY OF THEIR ADMINISTRATORS TO PUSH FORWARD AT THE PROPER

LEVELS WITH REQUESTS TO POTENTIAL DONORS AND RECEIVING COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THE UNITED STATES. THE VENEZUELAN PROGRAM, WHICH HAD BEEN INAUGURATED ON A HIGHLY HOPEFUL NOTE, WAS ALSO LANGUISHING AT THE PRESENT TIME DUE TO LACK OF CONCERTED FOLLOW-UP ON THE PROGRAM ON THE PART OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO THOMAS. ALTHOUGH THESE PROJECTS HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTING THUS FAR, THEREBY REDUCING POTENTIAL ICEM REVENUES, THOMAS FELT THAT MAJOR DIFFICULTIES HAD NOW BEEN WORKED OUT, AND THAT MORE PRODUCTIVE FLOWS OF ICEM-SPONSORED MIGRANTS COULD BE ANTICIPATED.

3. WITH REGARD TO SCBF PROGRAMS FOR REVISED BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS, THOMAS EXPRESSED CONCERN AS TO THE REACTIONS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE RAISED UNDER THE PROPOSAL, MENTIONING ITALY SPECIFICALLY.

4. ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, THOMAS STATED THAT OBVIOUSLY "IF THE UNITED STATES AND KRAHN ARE AGAINST IT, THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL WOULD GO NOWHERE." HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE FELT OBLIGED TO RAISE IT AGAIN AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST SOME IMPORTANT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FRANCE, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA, HAVE VOICED IN SEEING CERTAIN CHANGES EFFECTED.

COMMENT: IMPRESSION WAS LEFT THAT THOMAS WILL GIVE THIS ANOTHER TRY, AT LEAST FOR FORMS SAKE, BUT THAT HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS AS TO ITS PROSPECTS, AND THEREFORE WILL NOT MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OF THE MATTER. END COMMENT.
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5. THOMAS STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE PREPARED STATEMENTS OR PAPERS ON THREE TOPICS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

A. A RESPONSE TO THE GERMAN PROPOSAL AT THE LAST SCBF THAT MEMBER NATIONS ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH ICEM FOR AN ESTABLISHED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION, SUCH AS THE FRG HAD DONE SEVERAL YEARS AGO AT THE LEVEL OF ONE AND ONE-FOURTH MILLION DEUTSCH MARKS PER YEAR.

B. REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL BY THE SECOND SEMINAR ON ADAPTATION OF IMMIGRANTS THAT ICEM ESTABLISH A SORT OF REPOSITORY OR LIBRARY ON IMMIGRATION INFORMATION. THOMAS SAID THAT HE HAD NO FUNDS CURRENTLY FOR THIS PROJECT IF IT WERE DEEMED WORTHY OF ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL, BUT THAT IF SO, IT WOULD RUN ON THE ORDER OF

\$30,000.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6698

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 2925

FOR: D/HA

C. AN ANSWER TO THE REQUEST OF THE DELEGATION
FROM PANAMA FOR COMPARATIVE COSTS OF MOVING ICEM HEAD-
QUARTERS TO VIENNA. HE WOULD NOT VOLUNTEER THIS INFORMATION
AT THE SESSION, BUT WOULD HOLD IT IN HIS POCKET SHOULD IT
BE REQUESTED.

6. THOMAS SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH OF HIS DISAPPOINTMENT
THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED BY AN
EXPERT AT THE THIRD SEMINAR ON ADAPTATION AND INTEGRATION
OF PERMANENT IMMIGRANTS, MAY 9 THROUGH 11. HE EMPHASIZED
THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY CANADA AND AUSTRALIA,
WHOSE AFFILIATION ICEM WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING, WERE SENDING
EXPERTS AND PREPARING PAPERS FOR THIS MEETING. WHILE HE
RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THE UNITED
STATES TO FUND AN EXPERT THIS YEAR, HE URGED THAT WE MAKE EFFORTS
TO DO SO FOR THE NEXT SEMINAR, WHICH WOULD IN HIS JUDGEMENT
BE MORE THAN OFFSET BY ENHANCED PROSPECTS OF ENLARGING THE
ICEM MEMBERSHIP.

7. MISSION HAS LONG WONDERED AS TO UTILITY OF SUBCOMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORTATION, WHICH MEETS THIS YEAR ON MORNING OF
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MAY 16. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS IS A HOLLOW, ROUTINE SESSION WHICH UNNECESSARILY OCCUPIES TIME OF SEVERAL BUSY PEOPLE FOR HALF A DAY. WE THEREFORE PERCEIVE NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE ABOLISHED. IDEA WAS RAISED WITH THOMAS, WHO AGREED ENTHUSIASTICALLY, BUT STATED THAT AS DIRECTOR HE COULD NOT PROPERLY PROPOSE SUCH A MOVE. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE TIME THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION WAS ESTABLISHED, BY FAR THE BULK OF ICEM'S TRAFFIC WAS TRANSPORTED BY OCEAN-GOING CARRIERS OF VARIOUS FLAGS, WITH WHOM THERE WAS ACTIVE BIDDING FOR RATES AND COMPETITION FOR TRAFFIC. TODAY, HOWEVER, LESS THAN TWO PERCENT OF THE REFUGEES TRANSPORTED BY ICEM GO BY SHIP. THE REMAINDER TRAVEL ON AIRLINES WITH WHICH RATES ARE ESTABLISHED IN FAIRLY REGULAR AND CUT-AND-DRIED FASHION. THOMAS FELT THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION THEREFORE NO LONGER SERVED A USEFUL PURPOSE, AND THAT, IF ANY PARTICULAR COUNTRY FELT AGGRIEVED THAT ITS NATIONAL CARRIER WAS NOT RECEIVING A FAIR SHARE OF ICEM'S BUSINESS, IT COULD APPLY AS NEEDS BE DIRECTLY TO THE DIRECTOR OR, THROUGH HIM, TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF PREPARING AND RAISING THIS ISSUE AT THE FORTHCOMING SUBCOMMITTEE OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSIONS AS A UNITED STATES INITIATIVE, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE AT LEAST SOME MINOR ECONOMY.

8. MISSION HAS RECEIVED AND AIR POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT TODAY (UNDER REGISTRY NO. 2616022) ICEM INFORMATION DOCUMENT MC/INF/172 "PROGRAM FOR PORTUGAL" AS OF MARCH 31, 1977 AND 41ST COUNSEL DOCUMENT MC/1191, "1976 FINANCIAL REPORT." SORENSON

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